

To the Appropriations Committee,

My wife and I are parents/Guardians of a 21-year old young adult (Lindsey) with intellectual disabilities and multiple delays.

Lindsey will be in need of services shortly and we are very concerned not only about the lack of funds available, but the uncertainty of the funds.

We are very well aware of the extreme overtime with Southbury and other state-run facilities. Southbury, using fire department funds for the Town is more than any parent of or adult with intellectual disabilities can begin to understand. In addition we have seen how school systems complain about special needs funding and then diverts the funds for the general population. These practices of deception should not come from public officials at the expense of our most vulnerable community.

It is important to Lindsey and our family's health and well-being that that DDS keeps any budget savings or lapses or found money due to either purposeful taking advantage of a system (that should have been monitored) or typical good practice efficiencies.

Our family requests bill HB 5044 immediately stop the 59 million dollar cuts to DDS.

Please put together a concrete plan to divert DDS savings into the DDS into the DDS waiting list and community based supports. This can be accomplished by cuts in excessive overtime, unit consolidations in institutions and public to private group home conversions. Longer term please capture the 90 million dollars in savings from the closure of DDS institutions.

At a time when our most vulnerable need help, we appreciate the people that are actually doing something to help.

Sincerely,

Laurence D. Pollack